

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 9, 2007

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
William Lally, Selectman Representative  
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative  
Rosemary Lamers, School Board Representative  
Russ Bernstein  
Rusty Bridle  
Maury Friedman  
Dick Hansen  
Eileen Latimer (7:30)  
Jack Lessard  
Richard Nichols  
Michael Pierce  
Norman Silberdick

Excused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She said the purpose of this meeting was to review Hampton School District Warrant Article #2 and the Town of Hampton Warrant Articles.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a motion to approve the estimated revenues for 2007.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the estimated revenues of \$6,377,654 for 2007.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Woolsey said that because the Committee had recommended a level funded budget, it is necessary to be specific on major lines. She asked for a motion for clarification. This motion has been reviewed by Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager and Town Counsel, and Mike Schwotzer, Finance Officer.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Pierce to approve the following motion.

Per the requirements of RSA 32:5 and 32:16, the Budget Committee has recommended a "level funded" budget for the fiscal year 2007, and specifies that, according to the provisions of REV 1707.9(d), the Budget Committee's recommended appropriations for 2007 be listed in the 14 categories on the MS-7 form in the same amounts as shown in Column D of the 2006 budget that has been before the Committee, and the amounts in the "not recommended" column on that form for those categories shall be the

difference between the amounts recommended by the Selectmen and the corresponding amounts recommended by the Budget Committee.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Hampton School District**

Chairman Woolsey said that the Committee had previously recommended all of the school district warrant articles with the exception of Article #6 – Withdrawal from SAU21. She said that the collective bargaining article had now come in. She reminded the Committee that the only thing the Committee has in its control regarding collective bargaining agreements is the money.

**Moved** by Ms. Lamers, seconded by Mr. Lally, to recommend the following:

Article #2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Increase in Salaries and Benefits –  
2007-08 - \$398,198; 2008-09 - \$403,089; 2009-10 - \$419,786

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Jim Gaylord, Superintendent, SAU21. Mr. Gaylord introduced Cathy Terry, the Hampton School Board representative on the negotiations team.

Ms. Terry said that she felt the negotiations were very successful. A payback of sick days was negotiated. In the past, there have been teachers who upon retirement have 120 days on the books and will choose to use those days at the end of their employment. Now a payback has been negotiated in the amount of \$40 per day. This will result in savings because substitutes are paid \$80 per day. There will also be a cap on the number of days for the payback. There were also concessions on health care. The most expensive plan will no longer be available to new hires and employee contributions will be added to a plan that was previously 100% paid by the district. The biggest achievement was getting the salary schedule into uniformity. Savings to the district will be quite large.

Mr. Nichols asked what the increase was from the prior year. Ms. Terry said it was 4.8%. Mr. Nichols said he was absolutely opposed to digging further into the taxpayers' pocketbooks. Mr. Silberdick said he could not conceive how the Town can afford these increases. Mr. Bernstein said he did not agree with Mr. Nichols and Mr. Silberdick. He said he did not think teachers were paid enough and that this was a good budget.

Ms. Lamers asked Mr. Gaylord if he had numbers on cash savings down the road. Mr. Gaylord replied that this won't be known until it takes effect. The savings will have a tendency to grow. Ms. Lamers said that the School Board and SAU used an impartial third party negotiator.

Chairman Woolsey said that she thought this was very skillful negotiating, but she was concerned about recommending this expenditure at this time.

Mr. Bernstein reminded the Committee that property values are tied to the kind of schools a town has.

Ms. Terry emphasized that during these negotiations they were looking long term.

Ms. Latimer said she was concerned that when budgets were cut and reduced the future of the Town is being sacrificed. Qualified people are needed to teach our children and property values are tied to the school system. Ultimately, the taxpayers will decide this issue.

Chairman Woolsey said there are six collective bargaining agreements in the wings in the Town of Hampton. Everyone has much respect for the town and school employees, but basically it is important to think about what will happen to the taxpayer.

Mr. Nichols said his position is that government has to learn to live with the kinds of increases that the people who are paying the bills are receiving.

Mr. Lessard said the best schools make the best kids.

**Vote:** 6 yes, 8 no (Friedman, Hansen, Kubik, Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey). Motion failed.

**Moved** by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to NOT recommend Article #2.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 6 no (Bernstein, Bridle, Lally, Lamers, Latimer, Lessard). Motion passed.

#### **Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2006**

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2006.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Hansen). Motion passed.

At this time, Chairman Woolsey recognized Ellen Lavin of the Rockingham Community Action and asked her to discuss Petitioned Article #35.

Ms. Lavin explained that their agency provides services to low and moderate income Hampton residents for basic and critical needs. Only seven cents of every dollar goes to overhead. An overview was given of the services provided by the agency.

**Moved** by Mr. Lally, seconded by Ms. Lamers, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #35 – Rockingham Community Action</u>	\$25,000
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**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Town of Hampton**

**Moved** by Mr. Lally, seconded by Ms. Lamers, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #10 – Performing Needed Drainage Projects over a 3-year period - \$4,602,000</u>
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John Hangen, Director of Public Works addressed the Committee. He said that a study had been done in 1986-87 to assess storm needs for the Town. Nothing has been done for 20 years. When the Mothers Day storm hit this past year it was obvious that something must be done. They have reprioritized the original 25 projects shown as needed in 1987 and readjusted for two phases. This warrant article is for phase I.

Mr. Lally said that as a Selectman he has received many more calls regarding drainage than about any other issue. This is a quality of life issue.

Mr. Nichols said that this number is substantially larger unto itself in comparison to warrant articles last year. He said he is totally opposed to adding to debt service on the operating budget. Mr. Nichols suggested that it would be better to do this next year after the debt service is restructured.

Mr. Lally said the government has a responsibility to help the people it governs. There is already one lawsuit pending regarding drainage and there could be more.

Chairman Woolsey said that it is not prudent to continue to load debt. There are even more pressing issues such as the Fire Department to consider.

Mr. Bridle said it is important to think about possible accidents like the one at Five Corners. He said he supports this article.

Ms. Latimer said more money will be spent if this problem is not addressed.

Chairman Woolsey said she could not recommend this article because the more money added to the debt service, which is presently \$3.4 million, the less will be available to go towards the Fire Department, etc.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 5 no (Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Lamers, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #12 – Christmas Parade</u>	\$3,500
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**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Lally, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #13 – Police Forfeiture Fund</u>	\$90,000
<u>Article #14 – Hampton Cable TV Local Origination Fund</u>	\$70,000
<u>Article #15 – Cemetery Burial Trust Fund</u>	\$18,300

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #16 – Retired Senior Volunteer Program</u>	\$1,800
<u>Article #17 – A Safe Place</u>	\$5,500
<u>Article #18 – Cross Roads House</u>	\$15,000
<u>Article #19 – Area Home Care &amp; Family Services</u>	\$12,000
<u>Article #20 – Lamprey Senior Transportation</u>	\$3,500
<u>Article #21 – Richie McFarland Children’s Center</u>	\$6,000
<u>Article #22 – Sexual Assault Support Services</u>	\$2,000
<u>Article #23 – Seacoast Hospice</u>	\$7,500
<u>Article #24 – Seacoast Youth Services</u>	\$2,500
<u>Article #25 – Child &amp; Family Services</u>	\$5,000
<u>Article #26 – SeaCare Health Services</u>	\$10,000
<u>Article #27 – AIDS Response-Seacoast</u>	\$2,700

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Petitioned Warrant Articles

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to NOT recommend the following:

<u>Article #28 – Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Seacoast</u>	\$6,500
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Mr. Pierce asked why the Selectmen had not recommended this article. Mr. Lally responded that it was only because there was not enough information to recommend, but this would be taken care of at the deliberative session.

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Friedman, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #29 – Rockingham Nutrition &amp; Meals on Wheels</u>	\$3,930
<u>Article #30 – Seacoast Mental Health Center</u>	\$8,000

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to recommend the following:

<u>Article #31 – New Generation Shelter</u>	\$2,000
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Mr. Lally said the Selectmen had not recommended this article due to lack of information which may be provided at the deliberative session.

Ms. Latimer said this is a very worthwhile effort and has been around for a long time.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Lally). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to NOT recommend the following:

Article #32 – Sidewalk on Mill Road \$840,000

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Lally, to recommend the following:

Article #33 – Seacoast Visiting Nurse Association \$40,000

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to NOT recommend the following:

Article #34 – Old Town Hall Senior Center \$100,000

Mr. Friedman said he believed this was a huge quality of life issue. It is time the Town did something for the seniors.

Mr. Lally said the Selectmen did not recommend this article because they need to know what to do with all the buildings. It will take time and a study is being done. They are trying to look at the big picture.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to NOT recommend the following:

Article #36 – Families First Health and Support Center \$2,000

Mr. Lally again said that the Selectmen did not recommend this article due to lack of information which may be provided at the deliberative session.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Lessard to recommend the following:

Article #37 – Mosquito Control \$43,000

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to recommend the following:

Article #38 – Lamprey Health Care \$4,000

**Vote:** 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Regarding Article #39, Chairman Woolsey said this was not a validly constituted money article because the wording "raise and appropriate" is not included. Mr. Gearreald said that the proper words could be added at the deliberative session.

**Moved** by Mr. Friedman, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to recommend the following:

Article #39 – American Red Cross

\$1,000

**Vote:** 13 yes, 1 no (Woolsey). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said that the next meeting will be the Public Hearing for the Town and School District. It will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at Hampton Academy at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Hansen, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman